

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

D A I L Y   P R E S S   B U L L E T I N

No. 17

Tel-Aviv, 4th August, 1948

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1) BERNADOTTE MAY GO.

("Mivrak")

It is quite a pleasure to listen these days to the Ramallah Radio. Its usual note of swagger has changed into a whining appeal to have mercy on the unfortunate refugees, driven in hundreds of thousands away from their homes. There is also present a very distinct note of apprehension.

Abdullah's radio discussed yesterday the proposed demilitarization of Jerusalem. According to Bernadotte, said the speaker, to ensure a strict observance of the conditions of demilitarisation a force of two thousand five hundred soldiers was needed; such a force could not be provided in less than two months. But two months are, in the opinion of Ramallah speaker, too long a time; who knows what may happen in two months, especially as there are certain Jewish elements that are very uncompromising in their claim on Jerusalem and aspire even to Amman. In the circumstances Bernadotte cannot possibly leave for Sweden, as he has planned. The Arabs implore him to stay and deal personally with the situation with all possible haste.

B.B.C. hastens to report that Bernadotte has acceded to the Arab request and decided to give preference to the Holy City over the Red Cross conference. Quite naturally, Bevin's agent cannot be expected to act contrary to his master's orders.

It appears there will be no truce on the political front of Jerusalem. Bernadotte will accelerate his activity, for who knows what may happen in two months.

He declared that both sides had, in principle, accepted his proposal to demilitarize Jerusalem and details would come up for discussion next. Thousands of foreign soldiers would come and the Jewish forces would have to disarm. Then the future status of Jerusalem would be discussed.

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This announcement has not been repudiated by the Government of Israel and it would be too much to expect of it a repudiation. The appointment of the Military Governor and the six minister's mission to Jerusalem have not been aimed at the creation of a new situation. It is quite obvious that the Government is merely executing a manoeuvre of a very limited scope. All it aims at is to allay the recalcitrant public spirit, somehow settle the problem of dissidents and gain concessions elsewhere.

The public spirit is calming down. A settlement with the dissidents is not in view as yet. But the Foreign Minister can already put to his credit an important achievement: U. S. government has undertaken to support the candidature of the State of Israel for admittance to the U. N. O. (For the moment we have no idea what Mr. Shertok promised Mr. Marshall to concede in addition to Jerusalem.)

Jerusalem has been made a commercial commodity, an object for barter on the political black-market. That is the way it is treated by Christian spokesmen, who want to give it to Moslems, and by representatives of the Jews - ministers as well as rabbis - who want to give it to Christians.

But the Jewish spokesmen err in underestimating the importance of the Jewish youth, alien to tradespeople's practices. To it Jerusalem is a part of the homeland, its centre, its capital. They will never deal in Jewish land, never agree to sell even the smallest part of it, nor permit its heart to be torn out of it. Whatever turn the relations with the dissidents may take, the Jewish youth will never abandon Jerusalem, nor obey foreign rule. It will fight it.

The prospects of future can be discerned in the light of past experiences. It is quite possible that the fighting youth will not be sufficiently strong to liberate Jerusalem, especially as the Government of the Plain disowns it and may even use its armed forces against the fighters. But its strength will suffice to make any foreign administration fail, to make it bankrupt and thereby force our "official institutions" to fill the ensuing vacuum. If the Jewish rule in Jerusalem cannot arise by an act of volition of those in whom it is vested, then, as in the not so distant past, it will be forced to arise out of chaos.

It is, therefore, immaterial what will be decided these days at the green table. Nor is Bernadotte's presence here of any importance. He may go to Sweden with clear conscience. His absence will make no difference.

2) RADIO BROADCAST.

The prestige of the Government has gone up recently. Opposition and semi-opposition circles have become the Government's ardent supports. This change can be ascribed to two reasons: our military successes and Shertok's unexpected firmness of late. Then came suddenly Ben-Gurion's interview to the representative of the French News Agency and pricked the balloon of enthusiasm.

In plain and unambiguous words Ben-Gurion assured the world that, no matter how great our military successes may be and how far our soldiers may go, we would be always ready to move back to the Coastal Plain at the first call of the U. N. "In the choice between a large territory, won by the force of arms, and a limited territory obtained through an international decision, or by an agreement with Arabs, we shall always prefer the second solution." These are Ben-Gurion's exact words. Jewish soldiers in general, and those who took part in the capture of Ramleh, Nazareth and Jerusalem in particular, are well advised to learn them by heart. In accordance with them they must be ready every moment to do the "about turn" in many places that they already have or that they shortly will have captured at the price of a super-human effort and blood.

This is exactly what Bevin would like to hear from Ben-Gurion's lips. If he had any misgivings that the continued Jewish successes would bring about a complete liberation of Eretz-Israel, he would certainly put a stop to the war against Israel. But as long as he is sure that whatever may be the outcome of the military operations, Ben-Gurion's army can be always relied upon to obey an order to retire, he can be certain that the boundary lines of the Jewish state will never overstep the limits set to it by the U. N. There being, consequently, no risk that the Jews might benefit through the war, why not carry it on in the hope that the Arabs may still win some successes?

Such is Bevin's calculation. It is based on the assumption that the Jewish card is safely in his hand. Ben-Gurion confirmed this assumption in the presence of the French correspondent. In this way the Government of Israel has become, consciously or unconsciously, one of the mainstays of the British Empire in the Middle East and prevents the Jewish youth from re-conquering the whole of our homeland!